

A NEW SPECIES OF PTEROPHORIDAE (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM SRI LANKA: *HELLINSIA NUWARA* SP. N.

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A NEW SPECIES of plume-moth belonging to the genus *Hellinsia* has been found amongst specimens collected in Sri Lanka by A. Sochivko, P. Udovichenko, and V.S. Murzin in 1999. This species is close to *Hellinsia lienigiana* Zeller, 1852* and *Hellinsia kuwayamai* Matsumura, 1931, and may be allocated to the *lienigiana* group of species.

Hellinsia nuwara* sp. n.*Description**

(Plate O). Head covered with ashy grey scales, not forming a conical tuft on the frons. Labial palpi short, not more than 1.5 times as long as eye diameter; the second segment not pressed to the frons and is visible from above. Antennae thin, grey brown, with short hairs. Thorax and tegulae ochre grey.

Wingspan 19 mm. Forewings grey yellowish-white, dissected for more than one third. Costal margin in forewings with one distinct long patch of dark scales and two poorly-distinct patches. The colour pattern at the base of the fork is developed as a patch of dark scales. Fringes are little darker than the wings. Hind wings pale grey, with fringes being of same colour as in the forewings. Underside dark brown; in the hind wings, the second lobe with dark brown-black scales in a double row, the costal row is longer.

Hind legs ochreous-grey, with admixture of dark scales, especially around spur bases. The inner spurs are longer than the outer ones.

Male genitalia (Fig. 1). Valvae asymmetrical. The left valva is larger, its lower margin is semi-rounded; the projection of the left harpa is straight. In the right valva, the sacculus is two times narrower than the valva itself and has a soft harpa, which is fused with the valva. The harpa is broadened in its upper part and has free blunt portion only at the apex. The uncus is hooked and pointed. The anellus is divided from its mid-length into two asymmetrical branches; the right branch is broader and larger than the left one. The aedeagus is developed as a weakly curved tube, being not tapered apically.

The female is unknown.

Biology

Unknown.

Distribution

Sri Lanka.

Holotype

♂, with two labels: "Sri Lanka, Nuwara Elya, 2300 m, 20.01.1999, leg. A. Sotchivko", "ex. coll. Kovtunovich V.N. VK 40X", and red coloured label

* *Ovendenia lienigianus* (Zell.) of the recent British check-list.

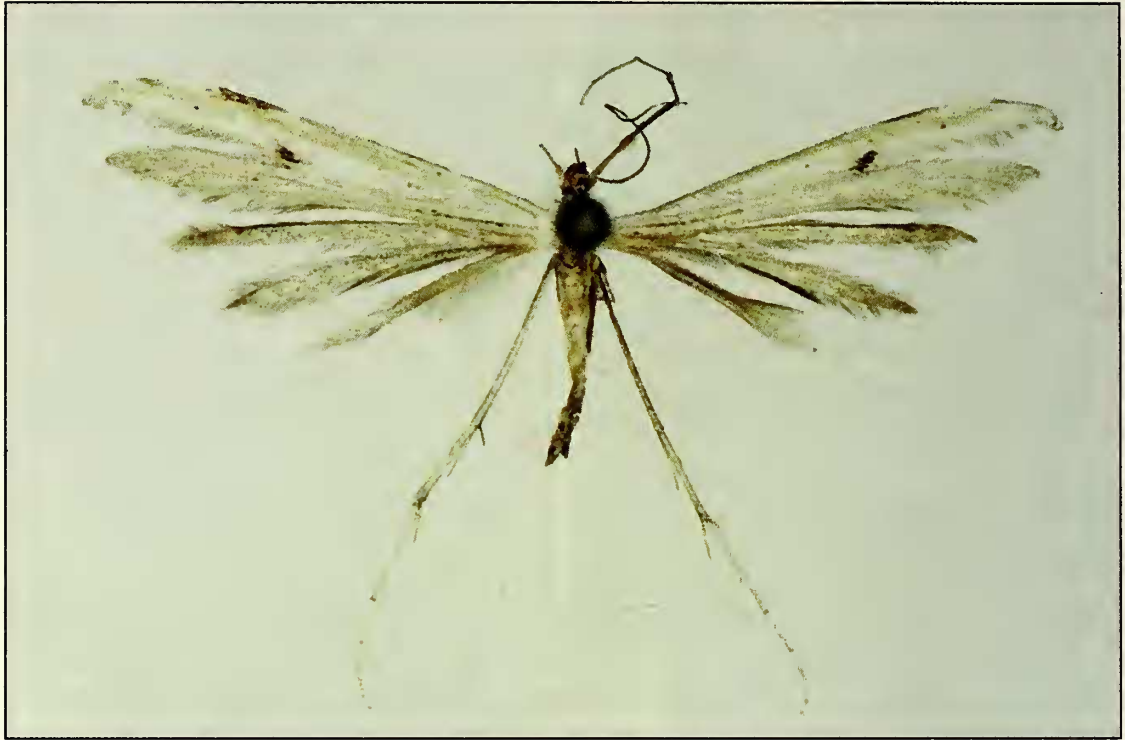


Plate O. *Hellinsia nuwara* sp. n., holotype male, Sri Lanka, Nuwara Elya.

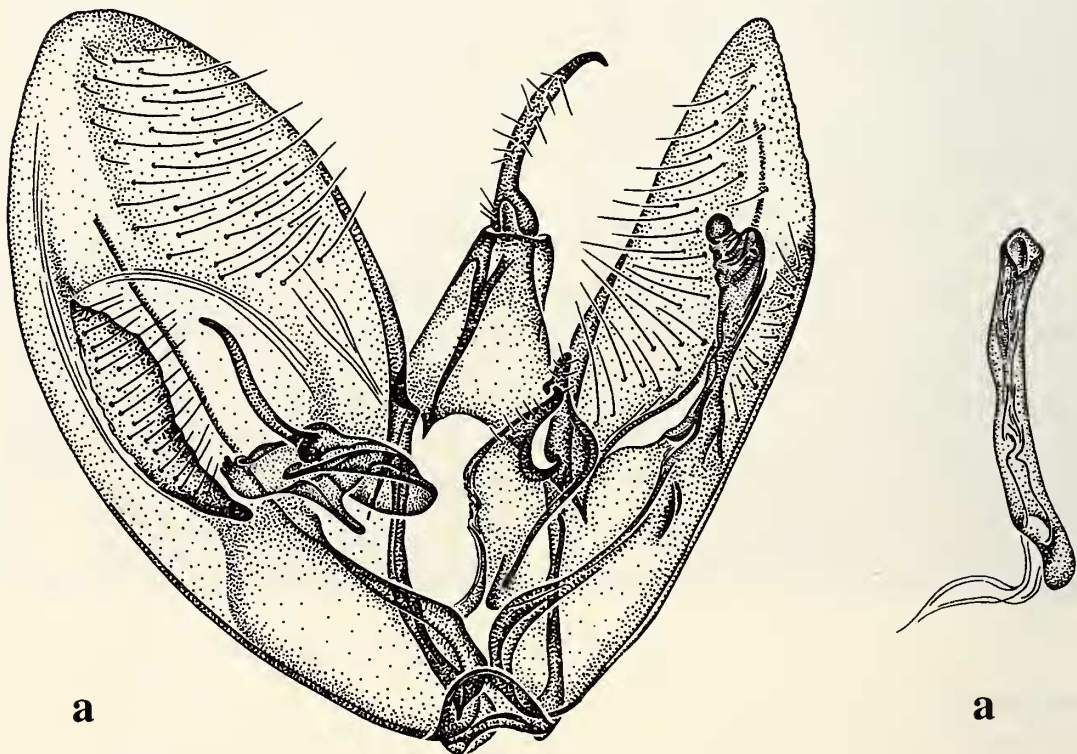


Fig. 1. *Hellinsia nuwara* sp. n., male genitalia, holotype, Sri Lanka, Nuwara Elya:
a – ventral aspect; b – aedeagus.

“Holotypus *Hellinsia nuwara* Kovt., sp. n., ♂, Sri Lanka, Nuwara Elya”, having “Coll. Zool. Inst., Petersburg, gen. praep. N° 16738 ♂ det. V.Kovtunovich” on its reverse side. Deposited in the collection of the Zoological Institute, St Petersburg, Russia.

Discussion

The new species may be allocated to the *lienigiana* group of species and is very close to *H. lienigiana* (Zeller, 1852). However, the projection of the left harpa is straight in the new species, whereas it has a semi-rounded excavation in *H. lienigiana* (see Zagulyaev, 1986; Arenberger, 1995). *H. kuwayamai* also has a soft harpa on its right valve, but it is less structured than in the new species.

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If you are interested in any of these groups, or have records, please contact myself with your details and I will place you on the mailing list. Those of you who don't record this group at the minute, but who are nevertheless interested, will also be kept informed by e-mail if you contact me with your details.— GRAHAM IRVING, Flat 95, 64 Curle Street, Glasgow G14 0ST. (E-mail: gelechiidae.nglrs@virgin.net)